

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)  
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points  
Monday, June 17, 2019  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

**Roll Call**

***Tribal Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow  
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White  
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☐ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ☒ Region 6: Craig Kreman (Quapaw Tribe)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of  
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca  
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☐ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears  
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk  
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-  
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington  
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

***Support Personnel***

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron Contract Support

**Action Items**

1. Monica Rodia will contact Katie Tiger about her tribe's ability to host the Fall 2019 TSC Face-to-Face Meeting.
2. Monica will work with Dona Harris and Corbin Darling to develop a formal request asking the TSC members for their input about tribal needs related to reducing childhood lead exposure.
3. TSC members who can recommend a botanist to assist the Tuscarora Nation with identifying unusual dandelions on its lands will contact Kai Tang.

***EPA Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: TBD
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☒ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☐ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☐ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ☐ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☒ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☐ Region 9: Rebecca Jamison
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AEIO: Francine St. Denis
- ☐ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☐ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☐ OW: Karen Gude

***Invited Speakers and Guests***

- ☒ Pat Bustos, EPA Region 7
- ☒ Chris Taylor, EPA Region 7
- ☒ Corbin Darling, EPA Region 8
- ☒ Dona Harris, EPA AEIO

## **Key Discussion Points**

### ***Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes***

- Monica took the roll of teleconference participants and explained that the May 2019 monthly call summary had been finalized and distributed to the members. She urged members to read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of TSC activities and action items.

### ***Caucus Report Outs***

- Jeff Mears explained that the Tribal Caucus had met the previous week and reviewed the draft agenda for this call. The Tribal Caucus also discussed the invitation that Jeff received from the Tribal Waste and Response (TWAR) Steering Committee to meet with the chairs of the other EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) on Monday, August 19, 2019, which is the first day of the forum. Jeff will not be able to attend the TLEF, but Page Hingst also serves on TWAR and will be in attendance. Carley Whitecrane also will be attending the forum. The Tribal Caucus also discussed the upcoming newsletter and Oneida Nation lead curriculum pilot test.
- José Zambrana explained that the EPA Caucus had met the previous week and discussed the Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) engagement process and upcoming lead curriculum pilot at the Oneida Nation.

### ***TSC Updates and Upcoming Activities***

- The current TSC support contract ends on June 27, 2019, but Monica is able to extend support coverage until April 2020.
- All of the articles have been received for the TSC newsletter, which will be released by the end of June 2019.
- The TSC has coordinated with the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) to develop a lead curriculum for tribal communities. The curriculum will be piloted at the Oneida Nation on July 9–10, 2019, so that the curriculum development team can obtain the tribe's input. The EPA Administrator will be announcing more protective lead clean-up standards by the end of June 2019 and has tasked the Regional Administrators with announcing the new standards in their regions. The Region 5 Regional Administrator will make the announcement at the Oneida Nation during the pilot test.
- TLEF 2019 will be held in Palm Springs, California, and the TWAR Steering Committee has invited the chairs of the EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups to meet on the first day of the forum. TSC Tribal Caucus members will participate. Lon Kissinger also may be attending the forum.
- The TSC has been working with the NTTC on the amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to obtain tribal input to inform EPA's risk evaluations under the new TSCA. The approach has been to examine one of the chemicals being evaluated (e.g., the flame retardant hexabromocyclododecane [HBCD]) and use the chemical as an example to explore whether unique tribal pathways of exposure exist that need to be considered. The goal is to incorporate these perspectives into guidelines developed by the Agency. A workshop may be held to discuss these issues. Karen Hamernik has tried to be proactive about the HBCD issue. Lon Kissinger added that HBCD is of concern, because it is a persistent bioaccumulative chemical. He has tried to gather information about community harvest rates for subsistence food in populations in Alaska and fish consumption rates among tribes in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, as well as consider environmental justice issues.

- The TSC collected preconsultation input on the tribal science needs for inclusion in the StRAPs being developed by the EPA Office of Research and Development's (ORD) six research programs. The draft StRAPs have been reviewed by the EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors. José and Monica have examined the identified tribal science needs and draft StRAP outputs to determine "cross-walk" areas in which the TSC can help make connections between ORD scientists and tribes. The TSC may be able to work on projects related to the identified air tribal science needs that are focused on wildfires, sensors and citizen science. Several identified tribal science needs are related to exposure and risk assessment; chemicals; sites, materials and ecosystems; and water. José and Monica have identified the cross-walk areas for these needs as well. Potential projects related to the sites, materials and ecosystem tribal science needs involve food waste, abandoned mine mapping and well-being indicators. A potential project related to water involves assessing proper functioning conditions.
- The TSC discussed potential locations for the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 face-to-face meetings. Katie's tribe will be given the opportunity to host, and Neil Patterson had mentioned the desire to host another meeting in Syracuse, New York. Potential EPA laboratories that could host one of the meetings include those in Duluth, Minnesota; Ada, Oklahoma; Narragansett, Rhode Island; and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Potential conflicts include the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) meeting during the first week of November, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) tribal workshop in November, and the National Brownfields Conference during the second week of December.

***Brainstorming Session: Ideas to Support the Agency's National Lead Plan, Dona Harris, EPA American Indian Environmental Office, and Corbin Darling, EPA Region 8***

- Dona and Corbin would like TSC input on how to support the *Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure*, particularly in building capacity in tribes. Their offices work with EPA's Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization Council (EJCRC), which is involved in projects to address public health and environmental issues in environmental justice communities across the United States. EPA has tasked Dona with establishing a similar effort in Indian country.
- EPA Region 6 has conducted a pilot study with one tribe to sample the drinking water at the tribe's schools and day care centers. The region's support included providing the sampling bottles, laboratory analysis and results.
- The EJCRC could add value to this effort by hosting a webinar for EPA regions and tribes that are interested in this topic. The webinar would include lessons learned, challenges, and how to overcome any barriers.
- Jeff noted that the Oneida Nation had a Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement to provide education and outreach about EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule, and he found that many housing or public works departments were not familiar with lead. More outreach and training programs to educate such personnel about lead are necessary. This may be addressed partially by the lead curriculum.

***Announcements***

- Beth Jackson explained that the annual Tribal Exchange Network conference was affected by the government shutdown, so the network's tribal governance group is working with ITEP to develop a tribal training summit to help tribes more effectively participate in the network. The summit likely will be held in the western part of the United States in November 2019. The Tribal Exchange Network helps to build tribes' in-house data management capacity and ability to send voluntary data to EPA. Beth will ensure that the TSC members receive information about the summit when it becomes available.

- José announced that eight abstracts had been received for the upcoming SETAC workshop session on bringing indigenous and western science approaches together. José described some of the presentations, including one that will be presented by the NTTC on TSCA and tribal exposure pathways. A second SETAC session will focus on indigenous approaches.
- Kai is looking for a botanist to help assist the Tuscarora Nation in identifying unusual dandelions on its lands.

*Next TSC Teleconference*

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on July 15, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT.